

# Improved modelling of charge trapping and impact ionization in phonon-based crystal detectors used for dark matter searches

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### **Phonon-based crystal detectors**

SuperCDMS High-voltage eV-scale (HVeV)





~1g Si, 100 V bias





# **Detector response**

- Resolution
- Ionization Yield
- Charge trapping (CT) & Impact Ionization (II)
- Other effects



#### **Detector response**





# "Exponential" CTII model



- 1.  $e^-$  and  $h^+$  propagate along *z*-direction parallel to electric field.
- 2. Parameterize CT/II probabilities by characteristic lengths  $\tau_i$
- 3. Find analytical solutions for each unique process and various event types



$$P_i(z) = \frac{1}{\tau_i} e^{-z/\tau_i}$$

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$$P_1(E) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\tau_{\rm CTs}} e^{-T_{\rm s} \cdot E} & 0 \le E < 1\\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$P_{26}(E \mid T_{\rm s} \neq T_{\rm o}) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{-\frac{23T_{\rm o}E}{4} - T_{\rm s}E}(\zeta_{\rm 1}(E) + \zeta_{\rm 2}(E) + \zeta_{\rm 3}(E)))}{4T_{\rm o}\tau_{\rm Hoo}(T_{\rm o} - T_{\rm s})^{2}T_{\rm s}^{2}(3T_{\rm o} + T_{\rm s})\tau_{\rm Hso}^{2}} & 1 \le E < 2\\ \frac{e^{-\frac{7}{2}T_{\rm o}(1 + 3E) - T_{\rm s}(5 + 6E)}(\eta_{\rm 1}(E) + \eta_{\rm 2}(E) + \eta_{\rm 3}(E) + \eta_{\rm 4}(E) + \eta_{\rm 5}(E) + \eta_{\rm 6}(E))}{4T_{\rm o}\tau_{\rm Hoo}(T_{\rm o} - T_{\rm s})^{2}T_{\rm s}^{2}(T_{\rm o} + T_{\rm s})(3T_{\rm o} + T_{\rm s})\tau_{\rm Hso}^{2}} & 2 \le E < 3\\ \frac{e^{-2T_{\rm s}(-1 + E)}(\psi_{\rm 1}(E) + \psi_{\rm 2}(E))}{4T_{\rm o}\tau_{\rm Hoo}T_{\rm s}^{2}(T_{\rm o} + T_{\rm s})(3T_{\rm o} + T_{\rm s})\tau_{\rm Hso}^{2}} & 3 \le E < 4\\ 0 & \text{else}, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\begin{split} \zeta_{1}(E) &= -9e^{\frac{1}{12}(60T_{0}E+T_{s}(4+8E))}T_{o}(T_{o}-T_{s})^{2} + 16e^{\frac{1}{4}(2T_{s}(1+E)+T_{0}(2+21E))}T_{o}T_{s}^{2} \\ \zeta_{2}(E) &= 2e^{\frac{23T_{0}E}{4}+T_{s}E}(T_{o}-T_{s})^{2}(3T_{o}+T_{s}) - 2e^{T_{o}+\frac{15T_{0}E}{4}+T_{s}E}T_{s}^{2}(3T_{o}+T_{s}) \\ \zeta_{3}(E) &= e^{T_{s}+\frac{23T_{0}E}{4}}T_{o}\left(3T_{0}^{2}-8T_{0}T_{s}-3T_{s}^{2}\right) \\ \eta_{1}(E) &= -9e^{\frac{1}{6}(21T_{o}+32T_{s}+63T_{0}E+34T_{s}E)}T_{o}(T_{o}-T_{s})^{2}(T_{o}+T_{s}) + 16e^{\frac{11}{2}T_{s}(1+E)+2T_{c}(2+5E)}T_{o}T_{s}^{2}(T_{o}+T_{s}) \\ \eta_{2}(E) &= -4e^{T_{s}(7+5E)+\frac{1}{2}T_{0}(5+21E)}T_{o}T_{s}^{2}(3T_{o}+T_{s}) - 2e^{\frac{1}{2}(T_{o}+23T_{0}E+2T_{s}(5+6E))}T_{s}^{2}\left(-3T_{o}^{2}+2T_{0}T_{s}+T_{s}^{2}\right) \\ \eta_{3}(E) &= 2e^{\frac{7}{2}T_{0}(1+3E)+2T_{s}(2+3E)}(T_{o}-T_{s})^{2}\left(3T_{o}^{2}+4T_{0}T_{s}+T_{s}^{2}\right) \\ \eta_{4}(E) &= 2e^{\frac{7}{2}T_{0}(1+3E)+T_{s}(5+6E)}(T_{o}-T_{s})^{2}\left(3T_{o}^{2}+4T_{0}T_{s}+T_{s}^{2}\right) \\ \eta_{5}(E) &= -2e^{\frac{11T_{0}}{2}+4T_{s}+\frac{19T_{0}E}{2}+6T_{s}E}T_{s}^{2}\left(3T_{o}^{2}+4T_{0}T_{s}+T_{s}^{2}\right) \\ \eta_{6}(E) &= -e^{\frac{7}{2}T_{0}(1+3E)+T_{s}(2+7E)}T_{o}\left(3T_{o}^{3}+T_{o}^{2}T_{s}-3T_{o}T_{s}^{2}-T_{s}^{3}\right) \\ \psi_{1}(E) &= -2e^{T_{s}+(T_{o}+T_{s})(-4+E)+T_{s}E}T_{s}^{2}-9e^{\frac{5}{3}T_{s}(-1+E)}T_{o}(T_{o}+T_{s}) \\ \psi_{2}(E) &= e^{T_{s}+T_{s}E}T_{0}(3T_{0}+T_{s})+2e^{T_{s}(-3+2E)}\left(3T_{o}^{2}+4T_{0}T_{s}+T_{s}^{2}\right) \end{split}$$







### Surface events example: fit to laser data





Phys.Rev.D 109 (2024) 11, 112018

Left:Right: $pCT = 11.6 \pm 0.6 \%$  $pCT = 12.1 \pm 0.3 \%$  $pII = 0.7 \pm 0.4 \%$  $pII = 0.9 \pm 0.2 \%$ Poisson mean =  $0.41 \pm 0.01$ Poisson mean =  $0.475 \pm 0.005$ resolution =  $3.30 \pm 0.04 \, \text{eV}$ resolution =  $3.37 \pm 0.02 \, \text{eV}$ 

# Non-ionizing energy deposition

#### **One hypothesis: surface trapping**





# **Extended detector response fit**

#### HVeV detectors made from same Si wafer





# **Extended detector response fit**

#### HVeV detectors made from same Si wafer



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photons absorbed on surface without sensors

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July 9, 2024

# Extended detector response fit



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Laser dataset 2

--- Model fit





# Gaining insights through detector response



HVeV Run 2 data: SuperCDMS, Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 9, 091101



- Modelling detector response
   Peak positions
  - Between-peak regions

# Gaining insights through detector response



HVeV Run 2 data: SuperCDMS, Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 9, 091101



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# Gaining insights through detector response



HVeV Run 2 data: SuperCDMS, Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 9, 091101



- Modelling detector response
  - Peak positions
  - Between-peak regions
- Understand backgrounds
  - Low-energy excess
  - Particle interactions (surface or bulk)
- Set stronger constraints on DM models

# **Summary and Outlook**



- Our modelling can be used to improve:
  - measurements of detector response parameters
  - energy calibration (resolutions reaching ~1 eV)
  - ability to distinguish between sources of events
  - modelling of expected DM signals
- Motivates further measurements to better understand and investigate detector response effects
- These effects are present in other solid-state DM experiment (e.g. SENSEI, DAMIC-M)

SuperCDMS@IDM Parallel 1, July 10: S. Dharani Poster 109: S. Dharani Poster 219: K. Kennard

#### Recently published in PRD! https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevD.109.112018

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Supplemental Material available:

- Catalog of analytic solutions
- Python script to load analytic solutions



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#### **Extra Slides**



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### **Possible CT/II mechanisms**





# Examples of CT/II solutions







# Flat vs Exponential CTII model







### **IMPACT** analysis of nuclear ionization yield







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